

No one could have blamed Leeper if he's chosen to call it a career back in 2014, when he left the Kentucky General Assembly. However, he stepped up to lead McCracken County, returning much needed stability to an office that had seen turbulence during the previous administration.

"It was an opportunity for us to use some of the contacts I'd made in Frankfort and make things better for the community I grew up in," he said. "It was difficult at times, but we made some positive changes."

His proudest accomplishments as judge-executive, he told *The Sun* this week, were largely centered on infrastructure at the courthouse, jail, road department, and parks. They weren't glamorous, didn't beg for bold headlines or TV spots, but they needed doing.

Leeper's next words are true to his laid-back personality:

"Sometimes you don't get to cut ribbons and that's OK with me," he said. "I was proud this court took that same attitude and we were able to do things that needed to be done, even the kind that you don't cut ribbons on."

"We did it all without raising taxes and I think the county is in a better place from Judge Clymer and the new court."

Join us in congratulating Leeper on a distinguished successful career. Through his leadership, we have a great example for future leaders to emulate.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING DR. LOUIS BALART

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I want to speak as a Senator and a physician. Many know that I am a doctor, but specifically I am a hepatologist. I studied and treated those with liver disease. One of my colleagues, Dr. Louis Balart, just passed away; a friend who treated many patients with liver disease and made an incredible impact upon the lives of those whom he treated in the State of Louisiana and indeed across the Nation. Dr. Balart has a remarkable story. His family came to the United States from Cuba when he was a child. His father escaped Cuba after his family was sent ahead to the States by drinking blood that he had drained from his own body. He went to the Cuban captors and said, "I'm bleeding internally, I need to go to Miami to get treated." As a doctor himself, he knew that this would happen. With this remarkable story, he was able to rejoin his family that had moved to the United States, fleeing Castro's Cuba. As is the case of many such stories, the family succeeded tremendously, Louis Balart being among them. I mentioned before that he was an influential physician, but he was also a teacher with LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans and Tulane School of Medicine. He also headed the liver transplant unit at the Tulane Medical Center. He passed his gifts down and now his son, Carter Balart, is a gastroenterologist in Baton Rouge, whom I have had the pleasure of working on patients with. Today I honor Dr. Louis Balart, a father, husband, and physician who contributed greatly to his adopted country, the United States of America. He left it richer because of his presence.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BERNADINE REED

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I want to recognize school bus driver Ms. Bernadine Reed, whose heroic actions ensured the safety of 40 schoolchildren last week in Darlington County, SC.

When a car ran into her stopped school bus on Tuesday, January 22 and caused the bus to catch on fire, Ms. Reed took action to make sure each and every child got off the bus safely and quickly. Because of her leadership and quick action, no one on the bus was injured, although the bus itself was consumed by flames minutes after the crash.

Although Ms. Reed had spent only 45 days on the job, the actions she took in this scary situation ensured the complete safety of all 40 of her schoolchildren. While she insists she is "just a mother," Ms. Reed certainly deserves the title of hero.

I would like to join in the rest of the Darlington community and the State in recognizing her act of heroism and thanking her for assuring the safety of her schoolchildren.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREENWOOD INDEX-JOURNAL

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to honor the Greenwood Index-Journal, a newspaper that is celebrating 100 years in the Greenwood, SC, community.

Founded in February 1919, the Index-Journal started as an office above a movie theatre and a printing press on a dirt floor. Although much has changed 100 years later, the Index-Journal's commitment to keeping the residents of Greenwood informed has not.

The Greenwood Index-Journal remains owned and operated by local residents themselves, with family members of the original co-owners still running the paper today. It is truly a paper run by the people, for the people. The Index-Journal has remained vigilant in its coverage of the Lakelands area, and continues to be a vital part of the Greenwood community.

I congratulate all of the Index-Journal leadership and staff for 100 years of committed and meaningful journalism and look forward to their presence in our State for years to come.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA THAT TAKES ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13692 ON MARCH 8, 2015—PM 2

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13808 of August 24, 2017, Executive Order 13827 of March 19, 2018, Executive Order 13835 of May 21, 2018, and Executive Order 13850 of November 1, 2018.

The Executive Order I have issued accounts for the swearing in of a legitimate Interim President of Venezuela, and addresses actions by persons affiliated with the illegitimate Maduro regime, including human rights violations and abuses in response to anti-Maduro protests, arbitrary arrest and detention of anti-Maduro protestors, curtailment of press freedom, harassment of political opponents, and continued attempts to undermine the Interim President of Venezuela and undermine the Venezuelan National Assembly. The Executive Order amends subsection (d) of section 6 of Executive Order 13692, subsection (d) of section 3 of Executive Order 13808, subsection (d) of section 3 of Executive Order 13827, subsection (d) of section 3 of Executive Order 13835, and subsection (d) of section 6 of Executive Order 13850, to read:

"(d) the term "Government of Venezuela" includes the state and Government of Venezuela, any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including the Central Bank of Venezuela and Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA), any person owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the foregoing, and any person who has acted or purported to act directly or indirectly for or on behalf of, any of the foregoing, including as a member of the Maduro regime."

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 25, 2019.